



OIA19-0699

18 NOV 2019

David Farrar  
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Dear David Farrar

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

I refer to your official information request on 18 October 2019 relating to the Te Uru Rākau tree planting tracker:

- *"The MPI website states that as of 15 October 2019 there have been 149,033,000 trees planted and 24,681,000 trees directly funded. Can you please provide the equivalent numbers for every month end from 31 January 2018 to 30 September 2019 inclusive?"*

The following information is released to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Our tree planting numbers are based on data collected from nursery surveys of seedlings sold. The tree counter estimate takes this total number of seedlings sold and then adjusts it by taking into account two key things: anticipated field wastage (an estimate of the number of seedlings that will not survive), and yearly tree planting rates relevant to seasonal planting practice.

The reason for the variation in monthly planting numbers is that pine trees are generally planted in winter and early spring, while native plantings are more spread across autumn, winter and spring with relatively small amounts planted in summer.

The table below provides the monthly tree planting estimates for the period requested.

**Table 1. Model of estimated monthly planting**

2018		2019	
Month	Seedlings planted	Month	Seedlings planted
January	61,000	January	56,000
February	49,000	February	56,000
March	49,000	March	56,000
April	1,035,000	April	1,269,000
May	11,774,000	May	13,690,000
June	21,551,000	June	24,926,000

**Te Uru Rākau**  
Data Insights and Forestry Policy  
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2018		2019	
Month	Seedlings planted	Month	Seedlings planted
July	26,939,000	July	31,158,000
August	6,885,000	August	8,072,000
September	536,000	September	670,000
October	61,000		
November	49,000		
December	63,000		

We do not collect information on the month in which directly funded trees are planted. As those receiving funds are likely to buy seedlings from a nursery, these trees will be counted in the annual nursery surveys and included in the tree counter. Grants are approved across the year and the date of planting will vary depending on the project, geographical area, species planted etc.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to refuse your request.

Yours sincerely



Antonia Reid  
**Acting Director Data Insights and Forestry Policy**